

Appropriations & Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2007

Call to order at 1:43 PM

Roll Call: Tribal Councilor Rita Shananaquet, Treasurer Shirley Oldman, Tribal Councilor Alice Yellowbank.

Attendance: Tribal Councilor Melvin L. Kiogima, Chief Financial Officer Valerie Tweedie, Legislative Leader Beatrice Law, Legislative Office Manager Michele LaCount, Vice-Chairman Bill Denemy

Motion made by Tribal Councilor Yellowbank and supported by Councilor Shananaquet to adopt the Agenda.

Vote 3-yes 0-no 0-abstained 0-absent.

Motion carried

Motion made by Councilor Shananaquet and supported by Councilor Yellowbank to approve the Minutes of February 28, 2007 as amended.

Vote 3-yes 0-no 0-abstained 0-absent.

Motion carried

Review of the Legislative Branch budget for 2008.

Public Comment opened at 2:34 p.m., Michele LaCount, Beatrice Law, Bill Denemy

Public Comment closed at 2:40 p.m.

The proposed Tribal Court Clerk position in the Judicial 2008 budget request was removed, creating a savings to the General Budget of \$41,696.

The proposed Policy Analyst position in the Tribal Chairman 2008 budget request was removed, creating a savings to the General budget of \$61,200.

Review the possibility of cutting the Michigan Tribal Advocate lobbyist funding from the budget as the Tribe already works with and funds the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST), the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) and United Tribes of Michigan.

Wage levels and caps and the annual cost of living allowance (COLA) were discussed.

Costs and cuts regarding the Odawa Trails were discussed.

Regulatory and travel cuts were discussed.

Commissions, Boards and Committees budgets were discussed regarding fringe.

The Chief Financial Officer Valerie Tweedie indicated the \$2,000,000.00 distribution fund is not enough for 2008 based on the number of Tribal Citizens. An increase of \$100,000.00 is needed in order for this disbursement to continue.

Bimaadiziwin (Good Life) program increase requests were discussed as well as the cemeteries and the future and maintenance thereof.

Cultural Preservation department and financing for items such as fire retardants files, etc...were discussed.

3:10 p.m. Recess called.

3:23 p.m. Meeting reconvened.

Discussion regarding Casino hotel rates and meal costs to Tribal Citizens regarding the 50% discount needs to change by opening date with a 20% discount toward buffet purchase.

Discussion regarding change of standard room rates for Tribal citizens.

Budget cut recommendations included:

1. \$50,000.00 Capitol Improvements,
2. \$5,000 Cultural Activities,
3. Moving Miss Odawa \$5,000 to the Jiingtamok budget bringing it to \$35,000.00.

The Chief Financial Officer Valerie Tweedie indicated all improvements to the Jiingtamok grounds should be completed in 2007.

The well house and community building money in the carry over budget was discussed as well as the confirmation regarding the three (3) houses that will begin being built with the onset of the winter thaw per previous conversation with Deleta Smith, Housing Director, as indicated by the Vice-Chairman.

Money for employee appreciation day paid out in Fringe pool was discussed.

Grants/Donations not expended out in 2006 due to getting a late start with the program according to Chief Financial Officer Valerie Tweedie.

Discussion regarding sponsorships only approved by Tribal Council motion was discussed.

Political contributions can not be over \$2,500 each for a total of \$35,000.00 in budget.

Commissions, Boards and Committees, \$20,000.00 for training annually was discussed as it was not expended last year.

After all discussion of cuts and increases so far this meeting, the deficit was brought down to \$84,523.00.

Commissions, Boards and Committees budget cut recommendations will include:

1. Housing, Education, Economic Development Commission and Health down to three (3) members and meet quarterly.
2. Indian Child Welfare Commission down to three (3) members.
3. Training line item will be reduced by \$12,000.00.

Chief Financial Officer Valerie Tweedie will pull all numbers and bring to next meeting.

The Legal Department budget will not receive any cuts.

Travel to conferences will be limited by reduction of budget allowances.

Gaming Board of Directors minutes and Friday meetings budget will be reviewed by Chief Financial Officer Valerie Tweedie and brought back to the meeting.

Chief Financial Officer Valerie Tweedie will bring back the Human Services budget to the next meeting along with the commodities building lease.

5:00 p.m. Motion made by Councilor Yellowbank and supported by Councilor Shananaquet to Adjourn.

Vote: 3-yes, 0-no, 0-abstained, 0-absent

Motion Carried.